

REMARKS

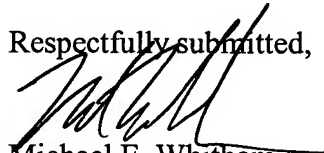
Claim 12 has been canceled in order to accelerate prosecution, and makes moot all rejections of this claim. Claims 1-11 remain in the application and have been allowed. Therefore, the application is now in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1-11 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041 (Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Whitham

Reg. No. 32,635

Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340
Reston, VA 20190

Tel. (703) 787-9400
Fax. (703) 787-7557

Customer No.: 30743